

RICE STREET BRANCH LIBRARY

1011 Rice Street, Saint Paul, MN 55117

At a Glance: 2006

Built-Remodeled	2002
Square Ft	12,846
Hours/week*	51.5
Days/open/week	Six
Materials Budget	\$76,685
Collection Size	56,520
Books:	
Adult	22,114
Juvenile	25,754
Total Circulation	160,155
Adult	91,906 (57%)
Juvenile	68,249 (43%)
Circulation/FTE	17,795
Total Information	21,580
Information/Ref FTE	4,591
In-House Materials Use	48,100
FTEs Public Service*	9
Gate Count	269,832

Computer Workstations (Public) 29: Internet/Word processing workstations: 19; Catalog workstations: 4; Children's workstations: 1; Homework Center: 4; Jobview: 1

Lounge chairs: 17; Study tables: 13 with 44 chairs; Study carrels: 10

*Information on hours and staff reflect system-wide changes implemented in November 2006

SERVICE PROFILE:

The Rice Street Branch is a community library serving the North End of Saint Paul. Its patrons reflect the increasingly diverse population of the area, and include Southeast Asians, African Americans, immigrants from several African countries, Caucasians, American Indians, and growing Karen and Latino populations. The branch also serves patrons living in a nearby building housing disabled persons, with a significant number of them being hearing impaired. Rice is bustling most days, boasting the highest gate count of all the branch libraries.

The present Rice Street Branch Library was built in 2002 to replace a 7,644 square foot building which had entirely outgrown its ability to accommodate the needs of the community. It includes a computer lab with workstations for 10 and an instructor's PC with a projector. There are 4 private study rooms accommodating 2 students each and a community meeting/programming room. In 2003, a Homework Center, STARS (Students Together Afterschool at Rice Street), was created to help meet the needs of the many students frequenting the library. A total of 2,850 students of all ages received help during 2005. Also, a youth advisory group was

organized through STARS to host new youth events at the library.

Use by families with children is high. It is a prime location for students of all ages, but especially pre-teen through the teen-aged students doing homework and accessing the internet. On school nights most of the tables and chairs are occupied. The 19 Internet PCs, with an hour limit, are in great demand, and a waiting list always develops in late afternoon and early evening. Regular weekly visits are made by local school study groups. The library also provides extensive service to educators of the early childhood through high school aged and, in turn, the youth they serve.

Circulation of juvenile books is consistently greater than circulation of adult books, and the juvenile collection is significantly larger in areas that are heavily used for homework assignments. All teen materials, especially graphic novels, are well used.

The library hosts regular mentoring and programming for youth, including early literacy based pre-school story times, the Summer Reading program, a Summer Vista program, and the "Read with Me" program, plus some programs specially tailored to teens.

Adults also depend on the Rice Street Branch Library for educational and recreational information and materials in many formats. Non-fiction materials in the highest demand are GED, English language learning, those in a variety of languages representing our diverse clientele, Hmong Culture, educational and career information, and family life and health topics. Urban fiction and the "Black Authors" collections are also very well used. DVDs are in great demand, representing a third of the total circulation. There is a strong and growing demand for staff assistance with various computing needs and skills. Volunteer help for assigning internet stations totaled 1000+ hours in 2005. Two book clubs meet at the branch and many community organizations hold regular meetings there. In collaboration with North End Community Education, Rice Street has regularly offered various computer classes for seniors.

The Friends of the Library organization offers year round educational and cultural events for adults.

The branch is heavily involved in community outreach and collaboration. The library is a member of the North End Business Association and the staff is regularly in contact with the staff of District 6, the City Council representative or his aide, the North End Area Team Police, the staff North End Senior Program, Parks and Recreation staff, and teachers from schools in the area. Strong community involvement with the branch and a library presence among the leaders of the North End are hallmarks of the Rice Street Branch Library. North End community leaders, planners, and educators are intensely proud of the library they worked so hard to build.